REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 25 are currently pending and rejected.

The applicants' attorney cancels claim 24, amends claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 25, and adds claims 26 – 27. Claims 5, 6, 12, 16 and 17 have been amended to correct typographical errors in each. Claims 11, 21 and 25 have been amended to conform them to their respective independent claims, as amended. These amendments do not add new matter and do not narrow the claims. The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claims 1 – 27, as amended, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

Objection to the Specification

The applicants' attorney has amended paragraph 24 to accurately refer to computer circuitry shown in FIG. 1 as "106"; not "102". No new matter has been added to the application with this amendment to the specification.

The applicants' attorney respectfully disagrees with the examiner's conclusion that the "front panel" mentioned in paragraph 24 is incorrectly referred to as 302. Because paragraph 24 discusses an embodiment of the invention that is shown in FIG. 3, not FIG. 2, and because FIG. 3 shows the "front panel" labeled "302", paragraph 24 recites the correct reference number for the "front panel". Therefore, the applicants' attorney has not amended paragraph 24.

Objection to Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 17

The applicants' attorney has amended claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 17 to correct typographical errors and overcome the examiner's objections.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 9

The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claim 1, as amended, is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,986,992 issued to Bardmesser (Bardmesser) because Bardmesser fails to disclose a mass storage device that includes a capacity-update component for determining the storage capacity of the mass storage device.

The applicants' claim 1, as amended, recites a mass storage device comprising a capacity-update component operable to determine a storage capacity of the mass storage device.

For example, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 3, and discussed in paragraphs 14, 16 – 18 and 25 of the specification, a mass storage device 102 includes a capacity indicator 104 that displays storage capacity information for the device 102, and a capacity-update component that determines the storage capacity of the device 102 and updates the storage capacity information that the capacity indicator 104 displays. In operation, the device 102 reads data from and writes data to a storage medium (not shown in the figures) that has an overall capacity. While the device 102 writes to or reads data from the medium, or while the medium is disposed in the device waiting for the device to write to or read from the medium, the capacity indicator 104 displays the capacity of the medium so that the information is observable to a user. Thus, a user can easily determine how much capacity remains in the medium before data is written to the medium and without having to eject the medium from the device 102 or input commands.

In contrast, Bardmesser fails to disclose a mass storage device that includes a capacity-update component for determining the storage capacity of the mass storage device. Bardmesser discloses a disk cartridge 1 (FIGS. 1 – 3) that stores data, and a disk drive 20 (FIG. 3) that can read data from and write data to the cartridge 1 when the cartridge 1 is inserted in the drive 20. The cartridge 1 includes a storage disk 3 for storing data, and a display 4 for displaying the capacity of the disk 3. The display 4 is located on a top surface of the cartridge 1 (*Col. 2 lines 63 – 67*), which is inserted into the drive 20 when the drive reads from and writes to the disk 3. Thus, the display 4 is observable by a user only when the cartridge 1 is not inserted in the drive 20.

The drive 20 includes a head 26 to write data to and read data from the disk 3, and a disk drive controller 24 to provide capacity information to the display 4 of the cartridge 1. When the cartridge 1 is inserted into the drive 20, the controller 24 determines whether or not the cartridge 1 includes the display 4. If the cartridge does, then a computer or other data processing device (not shown in the figures) determines the unused capacity of the disk 3. *Col. 3 lines 38 – 45, and FIG. 4.* Next, the determined unused capacity information is communicated to the display 4. Neither the cartridge 1 nor the drive 20 includes the computer or other data processing device that determines the capacity of the disk 3. Therefore, unlike the applicants' claimed mass

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storage device, Bardmesser's cartridge 1 and drive 20 do not include a capacity-update component that determines the storage capacity of the disk 3.

Claims 2 – 9 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1, as amended.

Rejection of Claims 10 – 18

Claim 10 is patentable 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bardmesser for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Bardmesser.

Claims 11 – 19 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 10.

Rejection of Claims 20 – 25

Claim 20 is patentable 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bardmesser for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Bardmesser.

Claims 20 – 25 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 20.

Conclusion

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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